

September Tradition and Concept of the Month and checklists*

Tradition Nine

Each A.A. group needs the least possible organization. Rotating leadership is the best. The small group may elect its secretary, the large group its rotating committee, and the groups of a large metropolitan area their central or intergroup committee, which often employs a full-time secretary. The trustees of the General Service Board are, in effect, our A.A. General Service Committee. They are the custodians of our A.A. Tradition and the receivers of voluntary A.A. contributions by which we maintain our A.A. General Service Office at New York. They are authorized by the groups to handle our over-all public relations and they guarantee the integrity of our principal newspaper, the A.A. Grapevine. All such representatives are to be guided in the spirit of service, for true leaders in A.A. are but trusted and experienced servants of the whole. They derive no real authority from their titles; they do not govern. Universal respect is the key to their usefulness.

- Do I still try to boss things in AA?
- Do I resist formal aspects of AA because I fear them as authoritative?
- Am I mature enough to understand and use all elements of the AA program—even if no one makes me do so—with a sense of personal responsibility?
- Do I exercise patience and humility in any AA job I take?
- Am I aware of all those to whom I am responsible in any AA job?
- Why doesn't every AA group need a constitution and bylaws?
- Have I learned to step out of an AA job gracefully and profit thereby when the time comes?
- What has rotation to do with anonymity? With humility?

Concept Nine:

Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

- Do we discuss how we can best strengthen the composition and leadership of our future trusted servants?
- Do we recognize the need for group officers? What is our criteria for election? Do we sometimes give a position to someone “because it would be good for them?”
- Do I set a positive leadership example?

* The traditions checklists were published in The Grapevine in conjunction with a series on the Twelve Traditions that began in November 1969 and ran through September 1971. The Concepts checklists were originally developed by an A.A. group and further developed by the trustees' Literature Committee to be distributed by the General Service Office. The version used is the revision dated July, 2002. This handout brought to you by the District 15 Love and Service Committee.